

Remarks:

Status of Claims

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 were previously pending. Claims 1 and 11 are amended herein. Thus, claims 1-4 and 6-20 are currently pending, with claims 1 and 11 being independent.

Office Action

In the October 6, 2006, Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-23 as being obvious or anticipated by Nystrom (U.S. Patent No. 5,394,667). Applicant respectfully submits that Nystrom does not disclose or suggest the features of the currently amended independent claims. Specifically, claims 1 and 11 have been amended herein to recite a board including a “generally rounded” groove. These features are illustrated in FIG. 4 of the present application and are reproduced below for the Examiner’s reference.

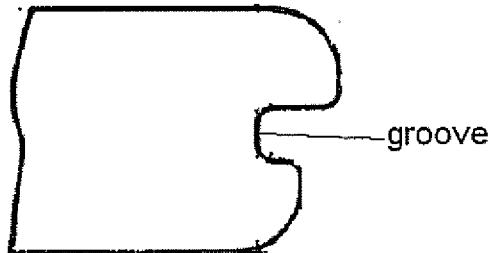


FIG. 4 (annotated)

Nystrom does not disclose or suggest a generally rounded board groove. The groove (slot) illustrated in FIG. 12 of Nystrom is clearly a rectangular groove as is necessary to couple with Nystrom’s generally flat clip flanges (col. 5, ll. 5-17). Thus, all pending claims should now be in allowable condition.

Claim 11 has also been amended herein to recite that the groove has a “a height of at least about ten percent of the height of the board.” This feature is disclosed in paragraph 0025, Table 1,

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and FIG. 4 of the present application. Such a groove height configuration enables fasteners to be easily secured within the groove.

In contrast, the groove illustrated in Nystrom FIG. 12 has a height that is clearly less than about ten percent of the height of the corresponding board. In particular, the groove height illustrated in FIG. 12 appears to be less than about five percent of the height of the board. Such a narrow groove configuration is necessary to enable Nystrom's groove to receive the generally flat clip flanges disclosed at column 5 of Nystrom. Consequently, claim 11 and all claims that depend therefrom are additionally allowable for this reason.

Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are now in allowable condition. In the event of further questions, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned. Any additional fee which might be due in connection with this application should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19- 0522.

Respectfully submitted,

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